

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dear colleagues and DTG members,

The interdisciplinary transplantation center in Dresden celebrates its 20th anniversary. Therefore, in the name of our local program team, it is my special pleasure to invite you to the beautiful city of Dresden and visit the 24th annual conference of the Deutsche Transplantationsgesellschaft.

Despite great success and progress of the transplantation medicine during the last two decades, many challenges and problems remain to be solved. Within the program of the 2015 meeting, we have invited an unusually high number of nationally and internationally recognized experts as speakers to assure that you as the participant of the meeting will definitely get a complete overview of the developments in the field of transplantation medicine. In addition, the selected short oral contributions and poster sessions will give the opportunity to discuss your newest scientific and clinical results.

Hereby, the on-going shortage of donor organs, allocation and ethical issues will be in the focus of the meeting. We want to set a strong sign by paying homage to the organ donors within the opening session as well as within the closing plenary session, where we want to discuss the view of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim religion on organ donation. Without a doubt, the old and new media strongly influence our and the general public view of organ donation and transplantation medicine, which will be the theme of our opening lecture, given by Prof. Constanze Rossmann, University Erfurt.

Interdisciplinarity is the key in transplantation medicine. In several sessions, we want to discuss the different views of the participating disciplines approaching the same problem or/and interacting to solve the problem together.

Personalized transplantation medicine – can that already be realized? Are there novel markers for individual monitoring available? What about HLA-, nonHLA-, donor-specific or non-donor-related antibodies occurring before or *de novo* after transplantation? Current immunologic risk management is still suboptimal and immunologic

monitoring clearly has to be a goal for guiding immunosuppressive therapy in the future.

What are the recent developments regarding immunosuppressive therapy – the choice of induction therapy, rapid steroid withdrawal, CNI minimization, the conversion or use of mTOR inhibitors or belatacept in CNI free regimens: what are the consequences for short and more important long-term survival of the graft and the patient? How can we improve the adherence of patient and the doctor to the necessary therapy?

The age of the donor and the recipient have been continuously increasing during the last years. What are the consequences and how can we deal best with the specific problems of the elderly transplant recipients receiving elderly or marginal organs?

For young transplant physicians, we have also expanded the master classes to cover many different and mainly basic aspects of transplantation medicine to offer education at very different levels. Hereby, we want to start video demonstration of certain techniques in transplantation medicine as a good way of learning by visualization. For the first time, the 19th Symposium of Associated Health Professionals (AKTx Pflege e.V.) will be completely incorporated into the DTG meeting, so that all associated health professionals participating the AKTx Symposium will have free access to the DTG meeting as well.

Finally, we recommend everybody to stay a few days longer to visit the many different historic places in one of the most beautiful cities of Germany.

We look forward to welcoming you soon at our 24th annual meeting of the DTG in Dresden.

Prof. Dr. Christian Hugo
Conference President

Dr. Mirian Opgenoorth
Congress Secretary